(c) how it is ensured that people return to their respective countries after the allowed time limit;

(d) whether there has been violation of visa restrictions after the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad route was opened; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action being taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) In keeping with Government's policy of increasing people to people contact between the countries, Government have agreed with Pakistan to start bus services from Amritsar to Lahore and to Nankana Sahib, and from Poonch to Rawalakot. Agreement has also been reached to reestablish the Munabao-Khokrapar rail route by 1 January, 2006. Work is currently under progress on both sides.

An expert level meeting with Pakistan to discuss the signing of the agreements on the Amritsar-Lahore and Amritsar-Nankana Sahib bus services is scheduled on December, 20-21 2005. Discussions on the Poonch-Rawalakot bus service will be taken up again with Pakistan, once the infrastructure destroyed in the region by the 8 October earthquake is restored.

(c) Travel of all foreigners is governed by immigration laws that ensure that other country nationals who overstay beyond the allowed period are deported and blacklisted.

(d) and (e) Travel on the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad route is on the basis of entry permit which normally allows a stay of one month. There have been some instances of overstay by Pakistani nationals who have travelled on this bus. These nationals have been subsequently deported by the concerned authorities. However, 6 Pakistani nationals are still stranded in India after the October 8 earthquake.

Extradition treaties

†2474. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the countries which have signed extradition treaty with India;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the efforts made to sign such treaty with the countries which have not entered into this treaty so far and the reasons for failure despite such efforts;

(c) whether provision of capital punishment in India is the hurdle for such treaties being entered into; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) India has signed Extradition Treaty with twenty-two (22) countries, *viz.*, Belgium, Bhutan, Canada, Hong Kong, Nepal, Netherlands, Russia, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates (UAE), United Kingdom (UK), United States of America (U.S.A.), Uzbekistan, Spain, Mongolia, Turkey, Germany, Tunisia, Bahrain, France, Poland, Korea (ROK) and Oman.

(b) It has been the policy of the Government of India conclude Extradition Treaty with as many as countries as possible. Proposals are usually initiated after ascertaining the interest of other countries in concluding extradition treaties with India.

(c) and (d) As per Section 34 (C) of Extradition Act, 1962 where a fugitive criminal, who has committed an extraditable offence punishable with death in India, is surrendered or returned by a foreign State on the request of the Central Government; and the laws of the foreign State do not provide for death penalty for such an offence, such fugitive criminal shall be liable for punishment of imprisoment for life only for that offence.

Pakistani help for release of Indian hostage in Afghanistan

2475. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had sought Pakistani help to release the hostage in Afghanistan recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Pakistan had offered any assistance in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government had